

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, MA 02631

Banders: **Susan Finnegan** (also compiler),
Gretchen Putonen

Assistants: Jo-Anna Ghadban, Ron Kielb, Rose Scavotto, Megan Nepshinsky, Katie Cadoret, Catie Porro, Judith Bruce, Claire Revekant and others who came for a day or two

Our 15th fall season began 1 Aug and continued through 13 Nov. A total of 2,678 birds were banded of 75 species and 95% of those were HY birds. Sadly, many nets had to be closed due to the presence of foxes and some net areas had to remain closed for the majority of the season because the other nets had to be monitored constantly.

Net hours totaled 6,171 for a capture rate of 64 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 31 Aug with a total of 148 birds. The best species diversity of 22 species was on 25 Oct. No new species were added this year. Four Rufous Hummingbirds were captured and banded during Oct and Nov in various towns in eastern Massachusetts, one being in the city of Boston! We had record numbers of House Sparrows (40) this year due to the loss of monitors at our Tree Swallow boxes. We had no lower numbers of species compared to our average, but had higher numbers in numerous species: American Goldfinch (157) with an average of 76 ± 37.5 ; Black-capped Chickadee (154) -- average of 86 ± 48 ; Downy Woodpecker (19) -- average 9 ± 5.1 ; Tufted Titmouse (52) -- average 24 ± 16 ; Orange-crowned Warbler (8) -- average 3 ± 2.6 and Prairie Warbler (14) -- average 8 ± 4.5 .

Sixty-three birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included an 8-yr Gray Catbird, 7-yr Song Sparrow, 6-yr Black-capped Chickadee 3, A5Y: 3 Gray Catbirds, 5-yr Song Sparrow, A 4-yr Gray Catbird, 4-yr: 5 Gray Catbirds, 5 Song Sparrows, 2 Common Yellowthroats, and 1 White-throated Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse, ATY: Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, and American Goldfinch and the rest were in their 3rd year or younger.

An American Goldfinch that we first banded as a HY on 9 Oct 2013 was found dead on 17 Sep 2014 in Plympton, MA. A Gray Catbird banded as a HY on 29 Sep 2007 was found dead in Old Saybrook, CT, on 12 Oct 2014.

Pox was noted on the feet of four birds this fall, all HY: Northern Cardinal, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird and a Blackpoll Warbler.

A banding demonstration was held on 23 Aug for an ornithology class.

Thanks very much to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above who graciously volunteer their time. Thanks to the French Foundation and the Cape Cod Bird Club for monetary support. We appreciate the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility and the Town of Brewster for banding on their land.

Monomoy Refuge Banding Station 413-0699

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge
Chatham, MA.

Banders: **James Junda** (compiler),
Assistants: Catie Porro, Melanie Mancuso,
Michael Novak, Valerie Boudeau

2014 was the final year of operation at MRBS and our most complete. We banded on 55 days, which is the largest total in four years of operation. The weather in 2014 at MRBS was quite good until the end of September, allowing for banding on most days. However, high winds and a series of storms in October limited banding to only 15 days that month. Our most interesting captures were Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (our 5th at the station) and Hooded Warbler, each rare on Cape Cod in the fall. Species present in larger-than-normal numbers were Gray Catbird, Palm Warbler and Common Yellowthroats which were all present in numbers equal to the three previous seasons combined. Numbers of Savannah Sparrows were way down; captured at 50% of the rate in previous seasons. Pine nut specialists were up again similar to 2012 with large captures of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches, the first two being completely absent in 2013, but present in 2012 and 2014.